



2A Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Agenda

2-4 PM, February 16, 2023

401 Large and Teams

- **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. Members present included: Matthew Johnson , Bobby Ingels, Richard Mulledy, Tim Biolchini, Maren McDowell, Sam Acosta, David Havlick, Erin Powers, Christina Aragon, Travis Easton, Council President Tom Strand, Councilman Dave Donelson. New members were introduced, including Bobby Ingels, VP of Norwood, and Sam Acosta, a transportation and hydraulics engineer who works for HDR. The committee members were introduced to the new members. At the close of the meeting, two spots were still open for committee positions, and election of officers was delayed (possibility of board convening later or possibly between meetings for, and only for, the sake of approval of new members). The approval of previous meeting minutes was delayed, due to lack of quorum.

- **Stormwater Enterprise Overview**

SWENT Division Manager Richard provided an overview of groups within the Stormwater Enterprise primarily for the sake of new members. He also spoke about the process regarding customer service and billing. Richard explained how Colorado Springs Utilities sends incorporates fees into their utility bills and provided a brief overview of their billing system. He recognized two outgoing members of the SAC: Gary Nesbit and Christine Lowenberg and thanked them for their service. An overview was given of the MS4 Permit Compliance Program. Richard then went over the financials for Q4 of 2022. The presentation is included as an attachment. He showed how budget is broken down and what is included in the MS4 Operating Budget- mainly salaries, benefits, etc. The leftover was rolled into 2023.

He provided an overview of drainage operations and maintenance; SWENT is required to maintain all the stormwater infrastructure in the city. SW Enterprise contracts with Operations and Maintenance to fulfill these functions through the level of service agreement. Discussion was held regarding the essential functions are and how those functions are undertaken practically. David Havlick inquired how 134% of ponds could be inspected, per the presentation. Richard stated that more ponds were added to the inventory added during the year. This infrastructure grew more than anticipated during the year. Councilman Strand asked what the pond inspections involve and Rich talked about the pond inspections: to include vegetation growth, inspecting the inlets and outlets to ensure proper functioning, and maintenance flow and embankments. If the facility operates through infiltration, we must

ensure that the infiltration is at the correct rate. Only six facilities have permanent pools and leaks are rare. Bobby Ingels talked about how this works for Norwood. Richard talked about how funds are encumbered and how funds are already accounted for regarding projects and as reflected in the budget. He provided fourth quarter billed and collected rate. Then he touched on transferring all bills from the current third-party billing to CSU. The timeline pushed back a couple months due to CSU's desire to undertake additional testing.

- **Q4 financial overview**

Phase 2 of the Stormwater fee transfer to CSU will put a service point on every parcel, so we can bill all properties regardless of utility service. Stormwater would save approximately \$500,000 by moving accounts to CSU. Saved monies will be allocated to Stormwater CIP projects.

David Havlick asked about the large new apartment complexes that are going up downtown and how do these get folded into the stormwater billing. Richard responded, explaining the stormwater billing process possibilities for this situation; master-metered where the building has 1 meter and the building divides up the water billing to each tenant, master-metered with more than 4 units can be billing as commercial which is billed per acre, and individually metered where each unit is considered single-family and would be billed the residential fee.

- **Discussion of current and future projects *presented by Tim Biolchini***

Tim presents the IGA Projects Summary as of the end of 2022, which shows six projects under construction and at least four of those will be complete in the next two months which will put us past the 10-year mark (2025). Project Design is passed the 15-year mark, which has been advanced to the number of issues with getting projects through the permitting process. Currently, projects are anticipated to take approximately 3-4 years to be completed due to the permitting process, then getting it to and through construction.

Tim then highlighted projects currently under construction which include Monument Branch, Phase 2B (anticipated to be completed by March 1st excluding vegetation which will take place in the spring), North Douglas at Sinton (completed by April 1st), Cottonwood Creek at Austin Bluffs (completed by May 1st), Cottonwood Creek at Academy (completed by May 1st), and Black Squirrel Creek at USAFA (completed by April 1st).

Tim proceeds to review project construction planned for Summer/Fall 2023. These projects include Fairfax Detention Pond, which is fully designed, and we are just waiting on approval from CDOT. This is located at Research/Powers where the new interchange has just been completed. CDOT dug the hole for the pond, now we will install the pond elements: trickle channel, forebay, and micro pool.

Hancock Training Facility, which is property the City owns and has been using for many years for training employees and external folks in the industry. The plan is to augment this facility with 2 mini ponds of full FSD, an Infiltration Basin, and an EDB so people who train here can see this is what you must inspect when you go to a pond. The ponds would be relatively small, but they'll have all the elements required to be reviewed for an inspection, so trainees can have a hands-on experience. We plan to tie water into the site, so we can run water through them to

show folks this is how they work. Richard goes on to explain more details about the training facility as it currently stands discussing the types of trainings that take place there and who uses the facility. Tim then mentions another thing we have planned for future is to put elements of the green infrastructure manual examples on the site so developers can see how to install and comply with green infrastructure.

Next project planned for construction this fall is Pine Creek from Voyager to Chapel Hills which includes the large sediment pond at the bottom. We just received the permit after 2.5 years, so this project will likely go out for bid midsummer.

Council President Strand asks about the efficiency of Army Corps of Engineers as it's been consistently difficult to acquire permits. Tim starts to respond that no, it hasn't gotten any better, then Richard adds there is some news on this subject. Richards continues to explain there is an upcoming meeting with two of the career heads of the Corp permitting, who have agreed to meet with some members of the HBA and Richard will also be in that meeting. He is hopeful to get some traction with these folks because it hasn't been very effective speaking with local and regional representatives. President Strand mentioned he send an email to Senator Bennett and Congressman Lamborn about these permitting issues that the City has been dealing with. Richard thanks Strand and continues to discuss his thoughts on what changes need to occur to correct this permitting issues.

Another project planned for this fall is Cottonwood Creek at Powers, which is a continuation of Cottonwood Creek at Austin Bluffs project up to Powers. This will be about a \$10 million project and will "check the box" on the Consent Decree for mitigating for the prudent line. Tim then mentions one more project on Cottonwood Creek: Cottonwood Park. He goes on to explain the plan is to turn the current depression right next to the park which is a frisbee gold course, will be made into a detention pond which people can still play frisbee golf through. Then the 60" pipe will be realigned over the depression, so it gets detained. Matt asks if the plan includes saving the trees in the wooded area. Tim explains we plan to save the cottonwoods, but we'll be removing the invasive species trees like the Chinese Elm. We'll be having a conversation with the community to make sure everyone understands the plan, and to avoid causing panic because this park is so busy and so popular.

The next project Tim discusses is Middle Tributary at I-25, which is currently nearing final design. He explains this tributary is immediately north of Black Squirrel Creek. This will be approximately \$1.5 million project.

Black Squirrel Creek at USAFA, Phase 2 previously discussed is also planned to be completed this summer.

Lastly, Sand Creek Detention Pond 2, which is the site located in the open space next to the Sky Sox Stadium. This won't just be a detention pond but will have lots of public amenities. We are working closely with Parks to plan and complete this project and make it a fun and beautiful location for the public to enjoy as well as a functioning water quality improvement.

Tim then highlights projects in design that are planned for 2024 construction, which include South Douglas at Sinton Trail, West Fork Sand Creek from Platte to Galley, Sand Creek West Fork to Karr, Sand Creek West Fork from Wooten to Main Stem, Sand Creek at Coleman Park.

The following projects are ARPA funded: Park Vista (County and City coordinated project), North Nevada Drainage Improvements (from the Templeton Gap channel down to Fillmore and then Monument Creek over to El Paso), Downtown Drainage Improvements.

Tim continues to show photos and footage of construction of North Douglas at Sinton and explains what improvements have been installed and are pending installation. He then shows images of Cottonwood Creek at Austin Bluffs and describes the unique installations being added to this project.

President Strand asks if the building code changes will affect Stormwater at all. Richard says they will not.

Tim then displays a model of Sand Creek Pond 2 project plan and explains the design elements and the exciting public amenities that will be installed in the area.

Tim then shows before pictures of North Douglas at Sinton as well as some footage depicting the large amount of water flow. Tim and Richard discussed various items that were improved.

- Update of drainage criteria manual *presented by Richard Mulledy*

Richard states we will be reviewing the drainage criteria manual to update it to the new rules and agreements from the Consent Decree. Erin Powers will be heading this effort.

- Next meeting: May 18, 2023

Richard concludes the meeting at 3:24pm but mentions we will likely hold a very short meeting out of the normal meeting cycle to elect new officers for the committee. Council President Strand asks how many voting members are on the committee, and Richard responds there are nine but we are down two currently. Strand then asks if alternates are used, and Richard responds we can use alternates and will investigate that. Strand adds alternates have been very useful in other boards and commissions.